

Today kicks off an exciting week for the NETWORKS team and other economic development professionals around the World – Economic Development Week! EDW was created by the [International Economic Development Council \(IEDC\)](#) in 2016 to increase awareness for local programs that assist in job creation, promote and advance career opportunities, and increase the quality of life. In the spirit of celebration, we will be sharing some information each day this week to better explain the ins and outs of the economic development profession.

Who We Are

NETWORKS Sullivan Partnership is the joint economic development agency for Sullivan County, Tennessee and its communities of Bluff City, Bristol, and Kingsport. Additionally, NETWORKS handles the marketing and recruitment activities for the Phipps Bend Industrial Park in Hawkins County, Tennessee. The staff here at NETWORKS work with many economic development partners from around the area, and are often referred to as our extended staff. Our extended staff includes representatives from the [City of Bristol](#), the [City of Kingsport](#), [Bristol Tennessee Essential Services \(BTES\)](#), the [Hawkins County Industrial Development Board](#), and the [Tri-Cities Airport](#). We also work closely with the [Tennessee Department of Economic Development \(TNECD\)](#) and the [Tennessee Economic Partnership \(TEP\)](#).

What We Do

Our name - NETWORKS - represents everything we do and all that our region has to offer. Northeast Tennessee works for existing and new business and industry. Sullivan Partnership represents a collaborative partnership among Sullivan County and its three primary communities. The NETWORKS team is equipped to assist companies in reaching strategic goals. NETWORKS offers existing and new business/industry programs for all companies, regardless of size or scope of business. Our team also assists companies with asset maintenance coordination, small business loans, consultant visits, contract negotiations and deal closings.

Meet Our Team

Our Brand

The NETWORKS brand is "Where Tennessee Begins Its Business Day." Along with being among the first in the state to see the sun rise each morning, Sullivan County is a community of innovation.

Milestone firsts in the state include:

- ? First county to certify multiple sites under the Select Tennessee Program
- ? First county to offer free community college tuition
- ? First public utility to offer one gigabit broadband service (BTES)
- ? First to be certified as a connected community as a county
- ? First to create a comprehensive advanced manufacturing facility as a public/private partnership
- ? The birthplace of country music

Learn More

Today's introduction was brief, but we'll be back each day this week to go into greater detail about different topics related to economic development, including [workforce](#), incentives, and the role of volunteers and partner organizations. In the meantime, you can learn more about NETWORKS and our region by perusing our website or by viewing our [community video](#). It's a 3:40 summary of some of the best things our region has to offer.